The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DEFENSE OF THE STATE.

1 *Resolved, by the Legislature of West Virginia,* That a
2 committee of two members of the Senate and three of the
3 House of Delegate, shall be appointed to consider and report
4 what steps should, and can, with propriety be taken by this
5 Legislature, to insure a more efficient defense of the persons
6 and property of our citizens against the common enemy, inclu-
7 ding the guerrilla bands by whom so large a portion of the
8 territory is now infested.

MAJORITY REPORT FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTED UNDER THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.

The committee to whom was referred the joint resolution of the Legislature, requiring them to consider and report what steps should and can, with propriety be taken by this Legislature to insure a more efficient defense of the persons and property of our citizens against the common enemy, including the guerrilla bands by whom so large a portion of our territory is now infested, would respectfully report that it is inexpedient at this time for the Legislature to take any action in the premises.

J. H. ATKINSON, *for majority of Committee.*

MINORITY REPORT FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTED UNDER THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.

The joint committee appointed to inquire into and report whether anything can be done, or what steps, if any are necessary, to be taken for the better protection of the loyal people of our

State. The committee having had the same under consideration, and a majority of one decided it inexpedient to legislate on the subject, therefore the undersigned would respectfully submit the following as a minority report.

D. D. T. FARNSWORTH.
ROBERT HAGAR.

Whereas, the Legislature of West Virginia would respectfully lay before his Excellency, the President of the United States, the true condition of our State in regard to protection, the policy and management of troops by those in command of this department. It is well known that at the commencement of this rebellion, when the Union was threatened by the combined force of traitors, that in that fearful hour; when Kentucky and Maryland were halting; the voice of the brave and loyal sons from the mountains of West Virginia, was heard responding to their country's call; though threatened to be overrun by rebel hordes, and treated as traitors to the State. Yet patriotism and love of country prompted the loyal people to meet in a mass convention in the City of Wheeling and denounce secession, and declared the offices of all those who were engaged in rebellion against the Government of the United States as being vacated, and proceeded to reorganize the State government, which was acknowledged by his Excellency, the President and Congress of the United States, and it was then when the loyal people west of the Alleghenies swore upon the altar of their country, to stand or fall with it; that Kentucky and Maryland took their firm position for the Union, thereby determining at at once the destiny of a so-called Southern Confederacy. Had it not been for the early stand the loyal people took, the war might this day have been carried into our sister States, Pennsylvania and Ohio. And whereas, West Virginia is behind no State in the Union in giving her sons to the war, and is still willing to pledge the last man and the last dollar to crush out this unholy and unprovoked rebellion. And whereas, we have all confidence in the Administration or Government, in its willingness and power to protect us. But we have reason to believe that his Excellency, the President, is not fully apprised of the true condition in regard to the protection of our State; we therefore take this method of laying before his Excellency, some of the facts, believing our grievances will be redressed. About one third of the counties of

the State lying on the border or frontier, are now in the hands of the rebels, and much that remains, especially the interior, is almost constantly being raided and infested with guerrillas. Many of our loyal citizens are being dragged from their homes by lawless thieving bands, and incarcerated in the filthy prisons of the South, for no other crime than love of country; their property is being carried off, stores robbed, and the families of many soldiers now fighting for their country, are left destitute and in want. Many of the loyal citizens so exposed are compelled to leave their homes and escape for their lives, and some are leaving the State. Those marauding bands are organized and set apart by rebel Letcher as mountain rangers, whose pay is their booty, and they are governed by no law of war, nor common decency. We feel that the policy adopted by some of the commanders of this department is not calculated to prevent raids, and the carrying on of guerrilla warfare. We would respectfully suggest that a more vigorous policy should be adopted; we are confident that the plan of inactivity, and treating of bushwhackers and guerrillas with kindness is but to encourage them; it has become a common saying that the best protection is to the rebel and rebel sympathizer. We feel that the voice of the loyal people for a change of policy or a change of commanders for this department is no longer to be disregarded by us. Our Governor, in whom we have great confidence, we believe is doing all that he can for our protection, but it is beyond his power to correct the evils that exist; therefore,

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia, That our Governor be requested to lay before his Excellency, the President of the United States, the foregoing preamble and this resolution, and earnestly solicit his excellency to give us a change of commanders for the Department of West Virginia, or a change of the policy as set forth in the above preamble.